

To: Bustos, Patrick[Bustos.Patrick@epa.gov]; Frizzell, Damon[Frizzell.Damon@epa.gov]; Juett, Lynn[Juett.Lynn@epa.gov]; R7 Senior Staff[R7_Senior_Staff@epa.gov]
From: Bryan, David
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 8:07:41 PM
Subject: OPA Special Clips - Gold King Mine

National Public Radio - EPA Criticized For Slow Response To Wastewater Spill In Colorado -

8/13/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency and multiple western states are dealing with the spill into Colorado's Animas River. It was triggered by a crew of EPA contractors working at the Gold King Mine. <http://www.npr.org/2015/08/13/432036020/epa-criticized-for-slow-response-to-wastewater-spill-in-colorado>

Washington Times - Erin Brockovich: Apology isn't enough; EPA must fire people in Colorado

spill - 8/13/15 - Erin Brockovich, the anti-pollution crusader made famous in the eponymous movie starring Julia Roberts, says the EPA's apology for the Gold King Mine spill "just ain't gonna cut it" and urged the agency to "fire people" if necessary. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/aug/13/erin-brockovich-epa-must-fire-people-colorado-spill/>

Investor's Business Daily - EPA Launches 'Environmental Racism' Crusade - 8/13/15 - If you're a manufacturer seeking federal permits for a new plant or a city developing transit projects, look out. You may be accused of "environmental racism." <http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/081315-766508-epa-launches-costly-environmental-justice-crusadeenvironmental-racism-crusade.htm>

Washington Examiner - With an EPA this incompetent, who needs robber-barons? - 8/14/15 -

Surely, the EPA's existence has played some role in creating the modern reality in which major polluters (BP, for example) are appropriately highlighted, excoriated, and held financially responsible for their messes. That much is up for debate. What is not debatable that President Obama's EPA has just caused the greatest water-based environmental catastrophe since the BP spill. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/with-an-epa-this-incompetent-who-needs-robber-barons/article/2570174>

CNN - Opinion: Will EPA have to pay for polluting river? - 8/13/15 - That's right. EPA was at a mine site to help fix the water, and instead ended up contaminating a lot more water. Many are demanding that EPA be held liable for this environmental disaster, which has flooded our screens with images of mustard-colored streams. So, will the EPA similarly be held accountable? Not likely. <http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/13/opinions/cevallos-animas-river-liability/index.html>

CNN Wire Service - Gold King Mine owner: 'I foresaw disaster' before EPA spill into Animas River

in Colorado - 8/13/15 - As tempers flared over the plume that exposed communities in three states to harmful metals as it flowed downstream, the criticism has been mostly targeted the EPA. One week has passed since the August 5 spill, and Todd Hennis, the owner of the Gold King Mine in Colorado, has mostly been silent. <http://fox6now.com/2015/08/13/gold-king-mine-owner-i-foresaw-disaster-before-epa-spill-into-animas-river-in-colorado/>

Denver Post - Animas River spill: Hurdles remain at Gold King - 8/14/15 - EPA says it needs to get as much work done at the Gold King Mine as it can before winter. The EPA was acting at Gold King after what, in an October document, the agency deemed a "time critical" effort to try to contain the increased toxic leakage. http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_28638259/hurdles-remain-at-gold-king

Human Events - Months Ago, Colorado Town Resisted Allowing EPA Tests that Caused Toxic Disaster - 8/14/15 - Five months before the Animas River toxic spill disaster, leaders from the tiny Colorado mining town of Silverton pleaded with EPA officials to not perform tests that would declare the area a Superfund site. <http://humanevents.com/2015/08/14/months-ago-colorado-town-resisted-allowing-epa-tests-that-caused-toxic-disaster/>

USA Today - EPA: Water quality returning to normal after Colo. spill - 8/14/15 - The water in the Animas River in Durango, Colorado is on the mend, according to the state health department and the EPA. Authorities are so confident the water is improving, they gave Durango the go-ahead to begin pulling water for customer use. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/08/13/epa-water-quality-returning-normal-after-colo-spill/31677077/>

Washington Examiner - Environmental Restoration identified as crony contractor for EPA Colorado spill - 8/13/15 - EPA preferred crony contractor, Environmental Restoration, for cleaning up at Gold King mine. The contractor's onsite operations caused the spill that sent 3 million gallons of mine wastewater into Southwestern rivers. <http://www.examiner.com/article/environmental-restoration-identified-as-crony-contractor-for-epa-colorado-spill>

CBS News - EPA: High levels of toxic metal in Animas River water after mine spill - 8/13/15 - Sampling results from EPA show high levels of toxic heavy metals in the Animas River water following last week's spill at a Colorado mine. The federal agency released its testing data early Thursday following increasing public pressure. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/epa-high-toxic-metal-levels-in-animas-river-after-mine-spill/>

Agri-Pulse - Regional farmers live in uncertainty due to EPA mine spill - 8/13/15 - A toxic spill caused by workers employed by the Environmental Protection Agency shut down major irrigation sources for farmers in the region, fueling more animosity toward the agency and triggering lawsuits. <http://www.agri-pulse.com/Regional-farmers-live-in-uncertainty-due-to-epa-spill-8132015.asp>

Colorado Public Radio - Tests Show Animas River Water Quality Recovering After Mine Spill - 8/14/15 - State officials have given the city a green light to use river water again for drinking water, once it's been treated. But some residents remain skeptical. <https://www.cpr.org/news/story/tests-show-animas-river-water-quality-recovering-after-mine-spill>

Albuquerque News - EPA: Lead, arsenic levels soared in hours after spill - 8/14/15 - River-water testing released Thursday showed soaring levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium and other heavy metals when the sickly-yellow Gold King Mine plume of waste first flowed through Colorado and into New Mexico and Utah last week. <http://www.abqjournal.com/628167/news/epa-lead-arsenic-levels-soared-in-hours-after-spill.html>

Washington Times - Gov. Hickenlooper's big gulp from polluted Animas River slammed by health official - 8/14/15 - Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's big gulp of water from the formerly orange Animas River wasn't just icky, it was "reckless and irresponsible," said New Mexico's top environmental official. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/aug/14/gov-hickenloopers-big-gulp-polluted-animas-river-s/>

FitsNews - Rick: Manning: EPA's Gina McCarthy Should Be Fired – 8/14/2015 - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's career of administrative neglect, malfeasance and outright incompetence has been capped by her Agency unleashing one of the worst environmental disasters of the 21st century. EPA clean-up crews breached a waste storage dam that produced a torrent of heavy metal-laden toxic waste, potentially fouling an entire western river system and impacting the drinking water of tens of millions of people. <http://www.fitsnews.com/2015/08/14/rick-manning-epas-gina-mccarthy-should-be-fired/>

Indian Country Today - Navajo Nation 'Weeping' as Toxic Mining Spill Flows Through Reservation – 8/14/15 - Just days after an EPA crew accidentally released more than three million gallons of mustard-colored wastewater into a tributary of the Animas River, Navajo President Russell Begaye stood on the unstable ground at the site of the breach. <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/08/14/navajo-nation-weeping-toxic-mining-spill-flows-through-reservation-161395>

Washington Examiner - EPA readies for oversight after toxic mine spill - 8/14/15 - The head of the Environmental Protection Agency thinks the mine spill disaster in Colorado isn't an issue that will go away anytime soon, and says the agency is readying for a wave of congressional oversight and lawsuits long after the crisis has been resolved. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-readies-for-oversight-after-toxic-mine-spill/article/2570204>

CBS News - Mine owner makes surprising claim about spilled wastewater - 8/14/15 - Mine owner Todd Hennis said the water did not originate with the Gold King but seeped into it from an adjacent mine, the Sunnyside. Its owners deny any responsibility. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/colorado-mine-owner-contaminated-wastewater/>

Popular Mechanic - The Truth Behind The EPA's Animas River Spill Is Messier Than You Think - 8/14/15 - In addition, containment ponds hastily constructed by EPA are, providing partial treatment to the "normal" runoff from Gold King. Mine water from Gold King now flowing into Cement Creek is less

contaminated than before the accident occurred. <http://www.popsoci.com/secret-history-epas-animas-river-spill>

Smithsonian - Why Tens of Thousands of Toxic Mines Litter the U.S. West - 8/14/15 - The spill in Colorado's Animas River highlights the problem of wastewater building up in abandoned mines, Thhe fouled waters of the Animas River are slowly clearing, but the widespread hazards posed by toxic mine waste will be with us for centuries. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/why-tens-thousands-toxic-mines-litter-us-west-180956265/>

Daily Signal - Commentary: Why the EPA Should Be Held Responsible for the Gold King Mine Spill - 8/14/15 - Companies should be held responsible for damage they cause to the environment. But what if it's the government that has caused the damage? <http://dailysignal.com/2015/08/14/why-the-epa-should-be-held-responsible-for-the-gold-king-mine-spill/>

Washington Times - Democrats, green activists scrambling to provide cover for EPA in Gold King Mine spill - 8/12/15 - The environmental left can be counted on to whip up an outcry whenever a private company despoils a gulf, stream or river — unless the polluter in question is EPA. After days with little or no reaction to the Gold King Mine spill, some Democrats and green activists are scrambling to provide cover for the EPA by pointing fingers elsewhere and downplaying the magnitude of the blowout. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/aug/12/gold-king-mine-spill-democrats-green-activists-scr/>